

Obama winds up nuclear summit with 35-nation pledge



U.S. President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, right, as they pose for a group photo on the last day of the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in The Hague -Netherlands.

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Thirty-five countries pledged Tuesday to step up nuclear security, backing a global drive spearheaded by US President Barack Obama to prevent dangerous materials falling into the hands of terrorists.

Wrapping up the third biennial Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), which gathered together 53 countries, Obama urged world leaders to work closer together to stop nuclear terrorism that he dubbed "the most immediate

and extreme threat to global security".

"It is important for us not to relax but rather accelerate our efforts over the next two years, sustain momentum so that we finish strong in 2016", said the US leader, when he will host a return meeting.

"Given the catastrophic consequences of even a single attack, we cannot afford to be complacent," he stressed.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, hosting the talks, said that "major steps" had been taken in terms of the three main goals of the summit: reducing the amount of dangerous nuclear material; improving the security around this material and bolstering international cooperation on the nuclear issue.

And in a joint statement unveiled with much fanfare on the sidelines of the NSS, 35 of the 53 countries pledged to work closer together and submit to "peer reviews periodically" of their sensitive nuclear security regimes.

The nations -- including Israel, Kazakhstan, Morocco and Turkey but not Russia -- vowed to "realise or exceed"

the standards set out in a series of guidelines laid down by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to safeguard nuclear materials.

These are the "closest things we have to international standards for nuclear security", US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz told reporters as he presented the pledge.

But experts cautioned that the deal lacked teeth without the agreement of other powers with large nuclear stockpiles.

"The absence of Russia, China, Pakistan and India -- all nuclear weapons states with large amounts of nuclear material -- as well as others, weakens the initiative's impact," said the Fissile Materials Working Group, a collection of more than 70 experts on the nuclear issue.

Search back on for MH370 wreckage

PERTH (AFP) - The search for wreckage of crashed Flight MH370 resumed Wednesday after the weather improved, with Chinese ships and Korean planes joining the hunt over a vast stretch of the Indian Ocean.

Gale force winds, rain and big waves prevented any sorties being flown on Tuesday but 12 aircraft will be in the air Wednesday while Australia's HMAS Success plans to conduct a surface sweep of an area where two objects were spotted this week.



US landslide death toll 'expected to rise'

ARLINGTON (AFP) - The death toll from a devastating US landslide remained at 14 Tuesday but was expected to rise with more than 150 people listed missing, as the National Guard joined the massive rescue effort.

The number of people unaccounted for after Saturday's disaster in the tiny town of Oso in Washington state still

stood at 176, although officials stressed that the figure should not be taken as a death toll.

"I would just ask all Americans to send their thoughts and prayers to Washington state and the community of Oso and the families and friends of (the missing)," President Barack Obama said.

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Kerry to meet Palestinian leader Abbas in Amman Wednesday

ROME (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to Amman Wednesday, interrupting a visit to Italy to meet with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas as a deadline looms for reaching a peace deal with Israel.

Kerry's surprise trip aims "to continue to narrow the gaps between the parties", State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Tuesday, a tacit acknowledgement of the difficulties bogging down the negotiations.

The US diplomatic chief would also be in touch with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "over the phone or by video conference", she added.

Kerry coaxed the two sides back to the negotiating table in July after a three-year hiatus, but the talks have stumbled as he has sought to hammer out an agreed framework to guide the next few months.

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Aruban personalities: Veteran Radio Announcer Roberto Geerman



At the console

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's has its fair share of radio stations and "DJ's" for such a small island, but an icon of the industry and 35-year veteran of the airways, from the days when there was only AM radio, is Roberto Geerman, who goes far beyond playing music, preferring the moniker of "Radio Announcer."

Roberto stopped by THE MORNING NEWS office for a pleasant chat about the evolution of island radio and his career. Looking back on the many events he hosted, and some of the greater triumphs, he grew nostalgic, even though he is now seriously considering retirement from full-time broadcasting.

Fresh out of school at 19, Roberto was examining his options, with little idea of what he wanted to do. His father informed him he should "get a job or get out." His mother loved listening to an AM sta-

tion called Radio Antilleana, and had heard an announcement they were seeking an announcer, so encouraged Roberto to inquire. "I thought," he recalls, "what do I know about being a radio announcer?" Considering himself shy and retiring, he had his trepidations, "but it was a chance for something to do, so I decided to apply."

Recruiting for the job was Morgan Arrindel, who was interested in Roberto and willing to train him, after an audition. "They gave me some news off the telex, which is all we had at the time, to read and study before taping. I took one glance and told them I didn't need time, I was ready," he recounts, "and I guess they were very impressed. I got the job and Morgan told me "You are a natural." They taught him to understand the equipment and the fine points of broadcasting, and his two-month trial period turned into a lifetime calling.

The rest is history for islanders as Roberto became a familiar voice on the few local stations operating at the time. Eventually he joined the staff of a new station, Radio Carina, which was delving into "more modern" music. Until then, the two local stations, Canal 90 and Radio Kelkboom played either classical and show music instrumentals or traditional island sounds. He was one of the first on the Carina staff, working there in the morning, then back to Radio Antilleana to broadcast in the afternoon. He has the distinction of being one of the only radio announcers to be heard twice a day on different stations, and has simultaneously broadcasted sporting event commentary on as many as four stations at a time. He also did a stint Canal 90.

Though he did not intend it, sports casting is one announcing genre for which Roberto demonstrated a particular gift. "I am crazy about sports," he confessed, and that passion and excitement was conveyed to his listeners as he gave the play-by-play on the fields. Another of his passions is carnival music, which has earned him the nickname "Wikipedia of Caiso and Soca," (Calypso and Roadmarch) the two musical genres consider essential to carnival, for which there is an annual grand contest lasting four evenings. His nightly coverage, and his incredible knowledge of past winners and competitors has made his reporting on the event lively and informative.

When Roberto began his career on radio he established a tradition that made him "the voice of the New Year," sort of an Aruban Dick Clark, for a major portion of the island. He would host a "Midnight Countdown," to the changeover, a very important service as islanders waited for his "Happy New Year!" to light the traditional pagara, a giant role of firecrack-



Roberto Geerman visits with Rosalinda, Marline and Ingrid of TMN

ers. This is Aruba's way of saying farewell to the old and welcoming the new. He wryly notes that in his entire radio career, he has never been with his own family for this tradition.

Even so, Roberto considers New Year's Eve a decade past perhaps the greatest highpoint of a radio career marked by scores of accolades and awards, such as Aruba's Top Disc Jockey and Top Producer. He was doing his usual 90-minute New Year's Eve broadcast, but it was the silver anniversary of the program. Only a few minutes before midnight, he received a call from his boss, Aldrick Croes, a producer and broadcaster as well, who told him there was "important breaking news, which we must announce immediately." Roberto reports he was thinking, "oh no, not now!"

When Aldrick was connected via telephone, he told the listening audience the "important news" was that Roberto was celebrating his 25th year of counting down to midnight, and he was now connected to and broadcast-

ing through every single radio station on the island. "If I had to pick any one moment in my long career that particularly stands out in my mind, above all, this would have to be it," he asserts.

Roberto is now heard every morning from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, Monday through Friday, on Radio Galactica (Gfm) 99.9, where he has worked since 2002. He also does the news at from 6:25 to 8:00 AM, filling in island commuters on current events. His Saturday program from 8:00 to 10:30 AM particularly focuses on Caribbean music.

Though now strongly considering cutting back on his airtime, Robert admits he could never give it up entirely, and his fans will most likely still hear him bringing them sports action and the annual Caiso and Soca Monarch contest.

"When I have the microphone in my hand, I am a different person, much more outgoing and connected to my listeners. I don't think I could ever give that up."

By Rosalie Klein

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement for the planet organized by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). Earth Hour engages a massive mainstream community on a broad range of environmental issues. It was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 7000 cities and towns worldwide, and the one-hour event continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movement.

The event is held worldwide and held towards the end of March annually, encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet. Earth Hour 2013 was celebrated on March 23, 2013. Earth Hour 2014 is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. during participants' local time.

Earth Hour Aruba Community Group (EHACG) is officially affiliated to Earth Hour Global and WWF and we are therefore committed to organize and promote events related to Earth Hour in Aruba. EHACG was founded in 2011 with the main purpose to encourage individuals and organizations in Aruba to participate in this global event. It is therefore that we are approaching you in the hopes that you could endorse this initiative this year again and that you could lend us a hand in encouraging family members, friends, neighbors, businesses to take part in Earth Hour

By turning off all non-essential lighting we are committing to a positive action for the planet and encouraging our citizens to do the same.



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Interesting Facts Earth Hour 2013.

- Bangkok decreased electricity usage by 165 mWh and 102 tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Dubai was dimmed by 50%, with savings of 100 megawatt-hours of electricity. This is a 2.4% reduction in demand compared to before the hour began.
- New Zealand (Christchurch) had the best result with the a drop of 13%.
- Melbourne, Australia reduced demand by 10.1%
- Aruba was also dimmed and reported a drop of 10% reduction.

Earth Hour Aruba will be greatly celebrated this year again, and we would like to invite you to join our events planned on March 29th: 6:30 PM - 08:00 PM Earth Hour Super Hero Walk (starting at Guillermo Prospero Trinidad Stadion and finishing at Fort Zoutman) 08:00 PM - 10:00 PM Lights Out event at Fort Zoutman.

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Omar Tromp introduced as new president of Chamber of Commerce and Industry



ORANJESTAD -- At the end of 2013 members of the Chamber of Commerce (KVK) elected a new board. This board is in charge of managing and supervising operations of the organization in the coming year. The new board members choose Omar Tromp as the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Tromp was officially presented during the "KVK Cocktail Hour."

Omar Felipe Tromp, 41, studied Physiotherapy and started working on Aruba in 2000. But in 2005 he changed direction when taking over his father's com-

pany, Felipe Construction which exists as of 1986. The construction company has a very successful track record executing various projects, small and big for our utility companies.

It is the objective of the Aruba Chamber of Commerce to stimulate and support sustainable entrepreneurship in order to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth for our island. The Chamber aims to accomplish this objective by helping to create favorable conditions that support the development of entrepreneurship. The focus areas of the Chamber are the entrepre-

neur, the business environment and innovation.

The Chamber also provides information and consults the government and the ministers of Economic affairs of social, financial and economic factors which can influence doing business on Aruba.

The new board consists of: President: Omar Tromp; Vice President, Lindsey Wever; Member with most years on the Board: Robert Carrasquero; Satish Daryanani; Frans de Mei; Trey Wyatt; Ernst Mohammed; Julissa Hoevertsz and Daphne Lejuez.

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar congratulates and thanks Olga Buckley for her new book "Bencho ta Rebeldia"



ORANJESTAD -- Recently, known author Olga Buckley launched her new book: "Bencho ta Rebeldia."

Olga Buckley is known for her poem collection and the popular children series named 'Bencho.'

"Bencho ta Rebeldia" (Bencho Rebels) is the 3rd installment in the Bencho series. The first two books in the series being: "Bencho ta dwaal" (Bencho gets lost) and "Bencho ta gana un bais" (Bencho wins a bicycle).

Olga Buckley is a school teacher with a huge passion

for promoting the pleasure of reading and the love for books. She is one of the founders of Bon Nochi Drum Dushi a popular children's reading program. Mrs. Buckley encourages parents and other adults in the family to read to their children from an early age on this way developing appreciation and love in the children for reading.

Minister of Education, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, who is also a volunteer of the 'Bon noch Drum Dushi' reading program, was

very excited to receive the new book during a nice get-together in the UNOCA patio.

There is a great necessity for more books in our maternal language: Papiamentu and especially children's books the minister said.

It is very costly to publish a book and the support of UNOCA in this process is very important. Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar added, encouraging our authors to continue writing books and particularly books for our children and youth.

The interesting thing of the 'Bencho' series is that the character captivates the children with his adventures which create a scene ambience where the child feels at home.

The Minister went on to congratulate and thank Olga Buckley for her efforts and the energy she puts into promoting reading and motivating parents to read with their children.

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Dementie Café CasMarie with a special Information night March 27



SAVANETA -- Dementie Café CasMarie is a meeting point for people with Alzheimer's disease, their partners, family members, friends and acquaintances. Here you can meet people who find themselves in similar situations. But also medical professionals and caretakers that deal with Dementia.

It is important to recognize the symptoms and be aware of the guidance and possibilities which exists on Aruba when a person is diagnosed with the dementia syn-

drome. One can always contact the CasMarie Foundation regarding questions about dementia.

Dementie Café CasMarie organizes a meeting/lecture every each month from 7:00 till 9:00 pm. This month's lecture will be on the change of attitude and functions in a person with dementia.

The first lecture will be given by Dr./Specialist Earl Joanns (Geriatric Specialist). The second lecture will be by psychologist Sabrian Sonnenstein where the focus will be on disorientation symptoms.

This evening promises to be very interesting with valuable information and tips to help and animate all present to continue with the care at home.

CasMarie is situated in Savaneta 532-A.

For more information or interest in the services of CasMarie please contact 5696910 or visit their Facebook page: Dementie Café CasMarie.

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Comedy tonight!

Stand-up legend Kevin Meany brings his craziness to the Aruba Ray show at the Marriott



Moody McCarthy

PALM BEACH -- There are only a few more days left to catch the latest edition of Aruba Ray's Comedy Show at the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino in Palm Beach. The New York comic who is so devoted to Aruba, Ray Ellin, his cohorts nicknamed him "Aruba Ray," is coming to the end of a hilarious three-week run with a flourish, featuring guest comics D.C. Benny and Emmy-winner Kevin Meany.

Highly recommended, don't miss these final nights until Ray returns with more great performers during his next visit. The busy comedian, host of "The New Gong



Kevin Meany

Show" and "LateNet" on Comedy Central has been returning to Aruba nearly every month to relax, but soon realized the island audiences needed a good laugh.

Moody McCarthy left them laughing with a final show on Sunday to be taken over by Ben Wartofsky, better known as "D.C. Benny" because of his home town, last night. The trio delivers a diverse style of adult comedy that guarantees a good time for the audience.

Ray is the perfect host, taking a sincere interest in those coming to see his show,

for great impromptu interaction and humor that is fresh and unique with each performance. He likes making friends and making them feel a part of the action.

D.C. Benny, originally from the U.S. capital, is now a New York resident for many years, and his wry observations on the famous town, and the places he visits, will hit home on your funny bone. Not only has he appeared on Comedy Central on both coasts, but written for the Dennis Miller Show, spec sketches for all the late night hosts, appeared in several



Ray Ellin

commercial and films.

The grand finale for the show is Emmy-winning actor for his performance on "Comedy Night" and stand-up legend Kevin Meany. We can only think of him as the "James Joyce" of comedy,

with his stream-of-consciousness humor ranging from his Irish upbringing to present day societal foibles and doing duets with the ghosts of some equally legendary singers, who he imitates to perfection. "You are a maniac!" yelled out one of the audience members to the star of the "Uncle Buck" TV show, which Meany took only as a compliment.

Aruba Ray's Comedy Show is original and memorable entertain beginning nightly at 9:00 PM. There is a full bar without a minimum, and the purchase of a ticket includes a \$50 slot play coupon in the Stellaris Casino.

By Rosalie Klein



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US landslide death toll 'expected to rise'

Cont. from pg 1

"We hope for the best, but we recognize that this is a tough situation," he added in the Netherlands, where he was attending a nuclear security summit.

On Monday, the confirmed death toll rose from eight to 14 following the mudslide which hit the town of Oso in Snohomish County, 60 miles (95 kilometers) northeast of Seattle.

"We're expecting that number to go up throughout the day," Snohomish County fire district chief Travis Hots said at a morning briefing Tuesday.

A total of 49 dwellings in the rural town were hit by the one square mile (2.5 square kilometer) wall of mud, rocks and trees, which also destroyed part of a highway.

- 'I believe in miracles' -

Authorities say they have 176 reports of people missing or unaccounted for -- but stress that could include some double-counting as well as people who have not been in touch with relatives

but eventually will turn up safe and sound.

Three days on, officials insist finding survivors is still possible, even though none have been found since Saturday.

"I believe in miracles and I believe people can survive these events," said emergency management chief John Pennington, adding: "They've done it before, they can do it again."

Obama declared a state of emergency in Washington state on Monday, ordering federal resources to join the local and state emergency services in tackling the disaster.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will help "save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in Snohomish County," said the White House.

New help Tuesday included over 60 National Guardsmen, and up to 100 volunteers, officials said.

Venezuela arrests three generals for plotting uprising: Maduro

CARACAS (AFP) - Three Venezuelan air force generals accused of plotting a coup against the leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro were arrested Tuesday, amid a widening crackdown on the opposition.

The unidentified generals were in contact with opposition politicians and "were trying to get the Air Force to rise up against the legitimately elected government," Maduro told a meeting of South American foreign ministers.

"This group that was captured has direct links with sectors of the opposition and they were saying that this week was the decisive week," Maduro said.

The stunning disclosure -- the first known significant threat from within Maduro's government -- comes amid a growing crackdown on the president's opponents after more than six weeks of street protests that have left at least 34 dead.

- Betrayed by loyalists -

The generals have been summoned before a court martial, Maduro said, adding that the plot was uncovered because other officers came forward to say they were being recruited.

It is the first time in 15 years of socialist government that generals have been arrested for alleged coup plotting, said military expert Fernando Falcon, a retired lieutenant colonel.

Massive protests in April 2002 resulted in Maduro's predecessor, the late Hugo Chavez, being briefly ousted -- before he was restored to power for another decade.

Maduro and his government have been the target of near-daily protests fueled by public anger over soaring crime, hyperinflation and shortages of such basic goods as toilet paper.

Demonstrators are also angry at oil-rich Venezuela's close financial and political ties to Cuba, the only Communist one-party state in the Americas.



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Airlines demand crackdown on unruly passengers

GENEVA (AFP) - Global aviation body IATA on Tuesday demanded that governments close legal loopholes that allow unruly passengers to escape law enforcement for serious offences committed on board planes.

"Airlines are doing all they can to prevent and manage unruly passenger incidents, but this needs to be backed up with effective law enforcement," said Tony Tyler, head of the International Air Transport Association. "Reports of unruly behaviour are on the rise."

The airlines' call came on the eve of a meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organisation in Montreal, which aims to update the 1963 Tokyo Convention on passenger safety.

US House readies Ukraine bill, no IMF reforms

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US House panel Tuesday approved aid to Ukraine and sanctions on Russia over its Crimea aggression, as pressure mounted on Senate Democrats to pass a compromise bill without controversial IMF reforms attached. The House of Representatives has already passed a bill securing \$1 billion in loan guarantees offered by President Barack Obama's administration after violent anti-government protests in Kiev forced Ukraine's pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich to flee.

After Moscow took over Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and annexed it, the White House responded by imposing sanctions on Russian officials and politically connected businessmen. The House bill would expand those sanctions, enhance security cooperation with Ukraine and call for the recovery of Ukrainian assets seized through corruption.

"The United States and our allies must take immediate action to strengthen Ukraine's sovereignty and independence" and target Russian officials involved in the aggression in Crimea, said Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which approved the measure.

It provides \$50 million for support for democracy and civil society in Ukraine, enhances security cooperation, and provides \$10 million for increased US radio broadcasting into the region by US government-funded Radio Free Europe and Voice of America.

Four arrested for NY World Trade Center parachute jump

NEW YORK (AFP) - Four men involved in a daring nighttime skydiving stunt from the top of New York's One World Trade Center have been arrested and charged, police said Tuesday.

A video of the September 11 jump, posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz7sxt9xeJE>, has had hundreds of thousands of hits.

"These men violated the law and placed themselves, as well as others, in danger," said Police Commissioner William Bratton as he announced the arrests. "Being a thrill-seeker does not give immunity from the law," Bratton said.

Three of the men jumped from the WTC's 104th floor, while one stood watch.

Police made the arrests after a five and a half month investigation that included a review of video footage, "other electronic and photographic evidence," and unspecified material collected in search warrants.

The men, all New York residents, were identified as



Marko Markovich, 27; Andrew Rossig, 33; Kyle Hartwell, 28; and James Brady, 32. They were released on a \$3,500 bail.

Brady was a construction worker at the WTC One, the tallest of the new skyscrapers being built at the site of the Twin Towers destroyed by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The men face felony charges of burglary, and misdemeanor charges of reckless endangerment and jumping from a structure.

Security at the site was in the news after a 16-year-old boy was arrested after he crawled through a hole in the

fence and made it to the top floor on March 16.

The teen took the elevator to the 88th floor, climbed up to the 104th floor, slipped past a sleeping security guard and spent time taking pictures.

He was later detained and faces a misdemeanor criminal trespass charge. Authorities confiscated his camera and mobile phone.

One World Trade Center is scheduled to open in early 2015.

The site includes five towers, a memorial and museum, a transportation hub, an arts center and space for retail business.

White House proposes to end NSA bulk data collection

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House has proposed to halt the National Security Agency's controversial bulk telephone data collection of Americans, a program which sparked a vast public outcry.

The plan would store the data outside of government while allowing access for national security reasons, officials said.

President Barack Obama - in The Hague for a nuclear security summit -- called the plan "workable" and said it "addresses the two core concerns that people have" about the NSA's surveillance.

The president also told a press conference that the reform "ensures that the government is not in possession of that bulk data."

Obama said there were "clear safeguards" against any abuse of the NSA's authority but added: "I recognize that people were concerned about what might

happen in the future with that bulk data."

A senior administration official said earlier that Obama had considered the results of a study he ordered in January into how the NSA could protect national interests without storing citizens' private data.

The comments came after reports in the New York Times and Washington Post that a major reform of data collection by US intelligence agencies was imminent.

The Times reported that the records would stay in the hands of phone companies, which would not be required to retain the data for any longer than they normally would, and that the NSA would obtain specific records with permission from a judge, using a new kind of court order.

A trove of documents leaked by fugitive former NSA contractor Edward Snowden sparked outrage in the United States and abroad

about the vast capabilities of America's intelligence programs.

Officials have defended the methods as necessary to thwart terror attacks but US public opinion was shocked by the extent of the NSA's activities on home soil.

James Lewis, a senior fellow who follows national security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the Obama proposal appeared to be "a cosmetic change" to NSA authority.

Joseph Wippl, director of graduate studies at Boston University's Department of International Relations and a 30-year CIA operations officer, said the measure could allay public fears about NSA surveillance, but added: "There is nothing here which protects foreign nationals, which is the way it has always been."

Some said the proposals unveiled so far did not go far enough



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Back pain biggest global source of disability

PARIS (AFP) - Lower back pain causes more disability around the world than any other single condition, and accounts for a third of work-related handicaps, a specialist journal reported.

Nearly a tenth -- 9.4 percent -- of the world's population has lower back pain, with the prevalence highest in Western Europe, followed by North Africa and the Mid-

dle East, and the lowest in the Caribbean and Latin America, a study found. The figure includes children.

Lower back pain also accounts for a third of all work-related disability, according to another investigation.

People aged between 35 and 65 are most at risk, especially farmworkers, which had a fourfold higher proba-

bility of lower back pain compared with workers in other sectors.

The data comes from a massive 2010 overview called the Global Burden of Disease, which looked at ill health in 187 countries.

The studies appear in Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, published by the British Medical Association (BMA).

Supreme Court to hear contraception case arguments



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court met Tuesday to hear arguments on whether employers must provide certain types of contraceptives under employee health plans, even if contrary to their religious beliefs.

Dozens of protesters from both sides of the debate -- feminists, homosexuals and anti-abortion advocates -- gathered on the court's steps amid falling snow before the 90-minute hearing.

The high-stakes religious freedom case was brought by craft store Hobby Lobby, whose billionaire CEO David Green says his business cannot comply with the Affordable Care Act rules brought about by President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul.

Green, who describes his company as following "biblical principles," objects to requirements it provide specific emergency contraceptives and intrauterine devices to its 28,000 employees.

But the Obama administration, which has exempted religious congregations from the contraceptive rule, says that a for-profit company such as Hobby Lobby does

not enjoy the same religious protections afforded to individuals under the US Constitution's First Amendment.

Protesters' dueling messages vied for attention outside the court, with the various contingents flashing various talking points.

Feminist activists chanted and waved signs that read: "Birth control, not my boss' business."

Anti-abortion proponents protested under the "my faith, my family" slogan, while gay-rights activists raised a banner that said: "Bigotry disguised as religious liberty is still bigotry."

Hobby Lobby's Christian education business Mardel is also part of the suit, which is being heard alongside another from Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp., a Pennsylvania cabinetmaker whose owners say they run the company based on their Mennonite Christian values.

The three risk a fine if they do not comply with the regulations.

The plaintiffs consider four of the 20 contraceptives covered under the Affordable Care Act -- two types of morning-after pills and two types of IUDs -- to be forms of abortion.

Health costs of China's polluted air 'up to \$300 bn a year'

BEIJING (AFP) - Premature deaths and health problems from air pollution cost China as much as \$300 billion a year, an official report said Tuesday, calling for a new urbanisation model for the world's second-largest economy. High mortality levels and other health problems from China's notorious air pollution are estimated to cost the country from \$100 billion to more than \$300 billion a year, said the report, which was 14 months in the making.

Writing in the Lancet in December, former Chinese health minister Chen Zhu cited studies showing air pollution caused up to 500,000 premature deaths a year in China. Tuesday's report said the long-term consequences could include birth defects and impaired cognitive functions because young children and infants are severely affected by poor air quality. China's rapid urbanisation over the last three decades -- a key part of its economic boom -- has avoided some common ills such as large-scale slums and unemployment, the report said. China's Premier Li Keqiang vowed to "declare war" on pollution at the country's annual legislative gathering this month, and announced new measures to add to a raft of others issued over the past year.



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'Angels' organ' makes heavenly comeback

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Only a handful of professional musicians can play it, but a rare instrument banned in the 19th century is making a comeback, and even seducing a new generation of rock and electro stars.

The glass armonica, invented by US founding father Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, was blamed for driving musicians crazy, and is not taught in any of the world's top conservatories.

"There are five or six of us who play it, for our own pleasure. It's a very small community," said Frenchman Thomas Bloch, one of the exclusive musical club.

But now Bloch has been invited by the Los Angeles Opera to play the instrument - which he jokingly says looks like a rotating glass kebab - in the Donizetti opera "Lucia di Lammermoor," which runs until April 6.

The spelling, without an "h," was ordained by Franklin himself, even if some have tweaked it to harmonica. It is based on the Italian word "armonia,"



meaning harmony, evoking the instrument's harmonic richness.

It is in fact a sophisticated version of an "instrument" that everyone knows: a glass filled with water, which produces a high-pitched ringing sound when a moistened finger is drawn around its lip.

Franklin got the idea after seeing musicians in London "playing" rows of glasses, filled with water to varying levels to make different notes - but wanted a more easily transportable version.

"So he asked a glass blower to create 37 bowls of different sizes, tuned chromatically over three octaves," Bloch told AFP.

The bowls are fitted inside each other without touching and fixed on a rotating horizontal axle, the speed of which can be controlled by a pedal.

The player makes music by sliding fingers across them, moistened with a mix of water and chalk.

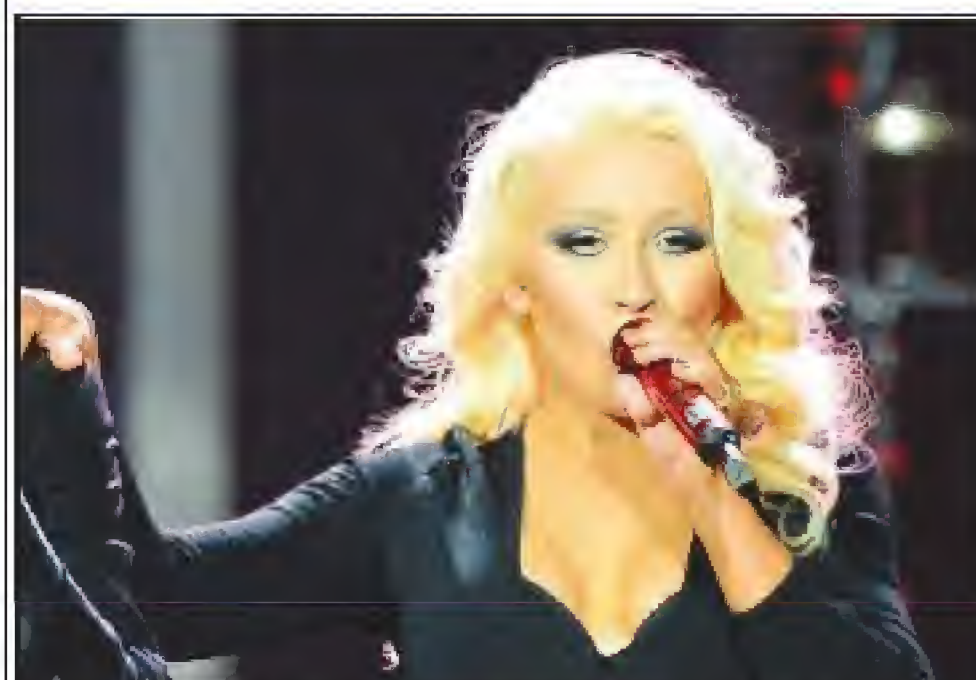
The whole thing looks a bit like a mixture of "a sewing machine and a translucent kebab," the Gallic musician quipped.

The instrument was a hit as soon as it was created. France's Queen Marie-Antoinette herself played it.

Mozart discovered the instrument from the famous doctor Franz Anton Mesmer - who used it to relax his patients - and liked it so much he used it for his final chamber music work.

Beethoven, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Saint-Saens, and later on Richard Strauss, also composed music for the glass armonica, which was nicknamed "the angels' organ" by Paganini.

Briefs:



Aguilera concert cancelled over Malaysia plane crash

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - A concert to mark Malaysia's Formula One Grand Prix weekend which was set to feature US star Christina Aguilera has been cancelled due to a passenger jet crash, its sponsor said Tuesday. State oil company Petronas, which sponsors the Mercedes F1 racing team and the annual concert, said it called off the show as "a sign of respect to the families and next-of-kin of the crew and passengers of flight MH370". Prime Minister Najib Razak announced late Monday that the Malaysia Airlines flight, which went missing on March 8 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard, had crashed in the southern Indian Ocean. The concert was to be held Friday and Saturday at the Kuala Lumpur Twin Towers and feature Aguilera, Korean star Rain and R&B musician Craig Davis. Formula One organisers were to meet later Tuesday to discuss a possible tribute to victims at this weekend's event.



Stones plan first Israel gig, but urged to reconsider

JERUSALEM (AFP) - The Rolling Stones announced plans Tuesday for an Israeli concert in June, prompting pro-Palestinian activists promoting a boycott of the country to say that would be equivalent to performing in apartheid South Africa. To jubilation from the Israeli media, a spokeswoman for the British rock icons said the band will perform in Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park on June 4 as part of its forthcoming European tour. But a spokesman for the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions committee noted that the Stones had been vocal opponents of racial segregation in South Africa, saying Israel also practices apartheid. After months of rumours of an impending first-ever visit by the band, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012, Israeli media were jubilant. It said Israeli promoter Shuki Weiss, once quoted as saying he would retire after bringing the Stones to Israel, had guaranteed the band \$6.7 million (4.9 million euros) for the one-night stand. Last week, the Stones postponed their tour of Australia and New Zealand after the suicide of Mick Jagger's girlfriend L'Wren Scott. But the grieving front man's songwriting partner of 50 years, Keith Richards, vowed that they will soon be back on stage.

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Europe's safety police find more toxic toys and textiles

BRUSSELS (AFP) - From collapsing pushchairs to chemical-polluted shoes -- an ever-rising number of toxic toys and skin-irritating textiles are being removed from supermarket shelves by Europe's consumer safety squad.

Products from China top the list of suspect items.

Thanks to better policing, Europe's Rapid Information System (RAPEX) issued 2,364 notifications of unsafe non-food products in 2013.

That was a 3.8-percent increase on the level the previ-



ous year, the European Union's Consumer Affairs Commissioner Neven Mimica said on Tuesday.

Shoes for example may be tainted with allergenic Chromium VI.

The steady increase in unsafe products detected since RAPEX was set up a decade ago -- there were 200 notifications in 2003 -- marked progress, the commissioner said on releasing the annual RAPEX report.

Toys and textiles each made up 25 percent of the goods, followed by electrical appliances, including mobile phones, at nine percent, motor vehicles at seven percent and cosmetics at four percent.

Overall, 64 percent of items detected originated from China including Hong Kong, in part because of China's massive market penetration in Europe.

To help Chinese producers better understand their obligations under EU standards, the bloc is working bilaterally with China.

Dangerous products of European origin accounted for 15 percent of the EU's notifications, including two percent from Germany, two percent from Italy and one percent from Bulgaria.

Last year the largest number of notifications were in Hungary, with 12 percent, Germany and Spain with 11 percent each, Bulgaria with 8 percent and Britain with 6 percent.

Google partners with Ray-Ban maker for smart eyewear



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google said it is joining forces with the frame giant behind Ray-Ban and other high-end brands to create and sell Glass Internet-linked eyewear in the United States.

The California-based technology titan billed the partnership with Luxottica as its "biggest step yet into the emerging smart eyewear market."

Luxottica brands include Oakley, Alain Mikli, Ray-Ban, and Vogue-Eyewear.

The first smart glasses by Luxottica for Google Glass will go on sale in 2015, the head of the Italian eyewear group said Tuesday.

The tie-up between the firms "is an incredible example of the period were are living in," Andrea Guerra said in an interview with Italy's La Repubblica daily.

The announcement in a Google blog post came as the web titan sought to burnish the Glass image ahead of its expected debut in the US market this year.

Google last week sent out a release to debunk Glass myths including that it invades privacy, distracts wearers, and is for "technology-worshipping geeks."

Google's Internet-con-

nected eyewear is currently in a test phase with a small number of so-called "explorers".

During the testing, developers are creating apps for Google Glass, which can range from getting weather reports to sharing videos to playing games.

The Internet titan appeared intent on avoiding the kinds of caustic run-ins that have seen some Glass wearers tossed from eateries, pubs or other establishments due to concerns over camera capabilities built into devices.

Google suggest Glass wearers be polite and offer demonstrations to possibly win over the wary. Glass fans were advised it is proper to follow the same rules set down for smartphone use in businesses.

"If you're asked to turn your phone off, turn Glass off as well," Google said.

Google early this year unveiled a partnership with US vision insurer VSP to make prescription Glass and to reimburse some of the costs under health benefits.

Glass connects to the Internet using Wi-Fi hot spots or, more typically, by being wirelessly tethered to mobile phones. Pictures or video are may be shared through the Google Plus social network.

Cisco pushes into 'cloud' with \$1 bn investment



NEW YORK (AFP) - Cisco Systems announced plans Monday to invest \$1 billion to step up its cloud computing with several global partners. The California-based equipment maker said the alliance would build "the world's largest global Intercloud," or a network of clouds to support objects ranging from wearable devices to appliances to automobiles. Partners with Cisco in the project include Australia's Telstra, Canadian business communications provider Allstream, European cloud company Canopy and global IT outsourcing company Wipro Ltd. of India. The new venture pits Cisco against other cloud companies offering corporate services, notably Amazon.



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Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.99
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	202.76
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	248.06
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.27
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.47
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	30.00
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	175.65

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Obama arrives in Brussels for EU-US summit



BRUSSELS (AFP) - President Barack Obama arrived Tuesday in Brussels for his first visit to European Union headquarters, where he is expected to cement US-EU opposition to Russia's takeover of Crimea and accelerate mega trade talks.

Air Force One flew in to the Belgian capital from The Hague, where Obama took part in a G7 meeting on Ukraine and a nuclear security summit earlier in the day.

Belgium's King Philippe and Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo welcomed Obama at

the airport before he was whisked off in an armoured limousine.

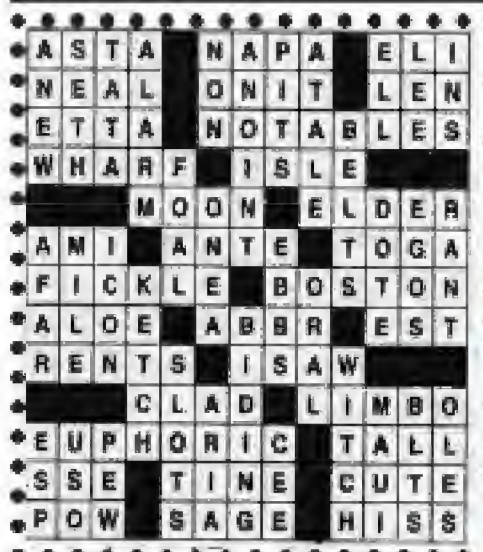
Viewed as the most important trip to Europe by a US president in years because of the Crimea crisis, Obama will hold his first-ever summit talks in Brussels with the EU's top officials Wednesday, a move seen as an ice-breaker.

He will also meet NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and give a speech on transatlantic relations.

Obama will spend less than 24 hours in Belgium, including a helicopter trip to an American World War I cemetery in Flanders.

He leaves Today evening for Italy and the Vatican, where he will meet Pope Francis, then heads to Saudi Arabia.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Don't Litter!

Analysts concerned after Brazil rating downgrade

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil must convince markets that it can grow its economy while also slash spending and curtail inflation, analysts said after the country's credit rating sunk to near junk status.

The Central Bank said Brazil would respond "robustly" to global economic challenges after Standard & Poor's lowered its credit rating to BBB-, the lowest level for investment grade debt.

S&P however described Brazil's overall outlook as stable.

The downgrade was "inconsistent" with economic conditions and "does not reflect Brazil's solid performance and fundamentals," the finance ministry said in a statement late Monday.

Analysts warn that they see hard times ahead for the World Cup and Olympic

hosts, with one indicating that strong 2004-2010 growth had been on the coattails of strong demand from China.

"Having enjoyed years of 'easy growth' in 2004-10, driven by Chinese demand, absorption of surplus labor and credit growth, the government and congress have not pursued structural reforms to sustain growth," said Robert Wood, Brazil analyst with Economist Intelligence Unit.

Without policy adjustments in 2015, "the outlook will deteriorate further," Wood said.

Sao Paulo University's Manuel Enriquez Garcia said that the years of strong growth fueled hopes that Brazil could become a major economic force. Now this hope "has been lost due to poor management of public

accounts and a falloff in growth," he said.

Austin Rating's chief economist Alex Agostini added: "There is no confidence that Brazil will control public spending and manage to bring down inflation in an election year."

Growth in Brazil has fallen off after peaking at 7.5 percent in 2010. In this World Cup year the government is forecasting growth of 2.5 percent, though markets are less optimistic.

Brazil is also stuttering off late on trade, with a 2013 trade surplus of just \$2.56 billion, its lowest in 13 years.

The Central Bank said that, in response, it would combine macroeconomic austerity, exchange rate flexibility and use of liquid reserves to keep share price volatility in check.

US says Bitcoin is taxable as property, not a currency

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US tax authority on Tuesday ruled that Bitcoin will be taxed as property, like stocks or real estate, rather than as a basic currency like the dollar.

Issuing the ruling just weeks before the April 15 deadline for paying 2013 taxes, the Internal Revenue Service may have dealt a setback to those wanting the online money to be officially recognized as a currency, like the dollar.

But the ruling benefited in-

vestors who could end up being taxed at a lower rate on gains they make from trading virtual currencies like Bitcoin.

"In some environments, virtual currency operates like 'real' currency," the IRS said.

"But it does not have legal tender status in any jurisdiction."

As property, the gains made on Bitcoin and other virtual currencies sold after being held for more than a year would face a tax of 15 percent or 20 percent, de-

pending on the person's level of income.

But any gains on Bitcoin traded in less than one year will be treated as income, which can be taxed at a significantly higher rate.

The IRS also made clear that anyone paid for services in Bitcoin or other virtual currencies have to report it as income.

It said that in reporting, the taxpayer would have to value Bitcoin in dollars based on "fair market value," possibly using the rate on an exchange.

Facebook buying virtual reality firm Oculus for \$2 bn

NEW YORK (AFP) - Facebook said Tuesday it was buying Oculus, a specialist in virtual reality technology, for about \$2 billion in cash and shares.

Facebook said it would build on Oculus' technology, including a virtual reality headset aimed at gamers, seeking to use it in other areas such as communications, education, and entertainment.

The deal will comprise

\$400 million in cash and 23.1 million Facebook shares to Oculus shareholders, the social network said.

It called Oculus the leader in immersive virtual reality technology with a strong following among developers.

The company has already garnered more than 75,000 orders for the \$350 development kits for the Oculus Rift headset.

"While the applications for virtual reality technology be-

yond gaming are in their nascent stages, several industries are already experimenting with the technology."

"Mobile is the platform of today, and now we're also getting ready for the platforms of tomorrow," Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement.

"Oculus has the chance to create the most social platform ever, and change the way we work, play and communicate."

COMICS

PICKLES



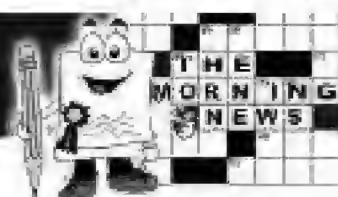
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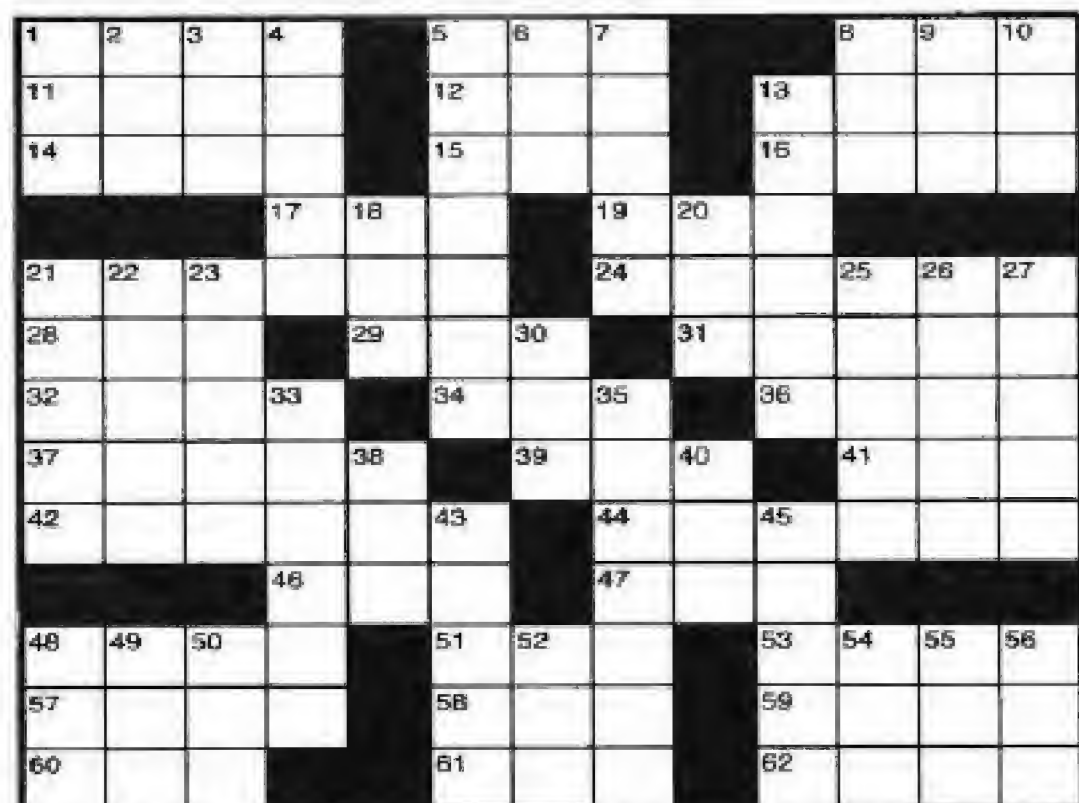
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- ACROSS**
- Crafts' partners
 - Interrogate
 - Sot's conviction (abbr.)
 - Wallet filler
 - In addition
 - Change course
 - Bible pronoun
 - Schedule abbr.
 - Woolly mamas
 - Make a boo-boo
 - Reaction to an IM joke
 - Eye part
 - Sometimes they're fallen
 - French article
 - Pumpkin-carving mo.
 - Garbo of films
 - Irritate
 - Done ___ turn (2 wds.)
 - Hawaiian isle
 - Besmirches
 - Compass dir.
 - Large container
 - Involve
 - Hickman of "Dobie Gillis"
 - Altar response (2 wds.)
 - Eliminate
 - Helsinki native
 - Ham on ___
 - Repulsive
 - North American Indian
 - Just discovered
 - Pack
 - Rogue
 - Question's opposite (abbr.)
 - Some cats
- DOWN**
- Perform
 - Cheerleader's yell
 - Mao ___-tung
 - Luster
 - Entice
 - Wail
 - Australian animal
 - Morning dampness
 - Petite
 - Taxing agency (abbr.)
 - Fastener on a tot's sneakers
 - Classic car
 - Kin of assoc.
 - Mutter an expletive
 - French ___ soup
 - Rekindled
 - Weighty
 - "___ Frome"
 - Fry quickly
 - Pull
 - Screenwriter May
 - Julie of "Mary Poppins"
 - Comedian Caesar
 - 1914-18 conflict (abbr.)
 - "___ Doone"
 - Grown person
 - Watchdog agcy.
 - Retiree's account (abbr.)
 - Edward's nickname
 - Urge
 - Sticky substance
 - Take it on the ___ (flee)
 - Length measures (abbr.)



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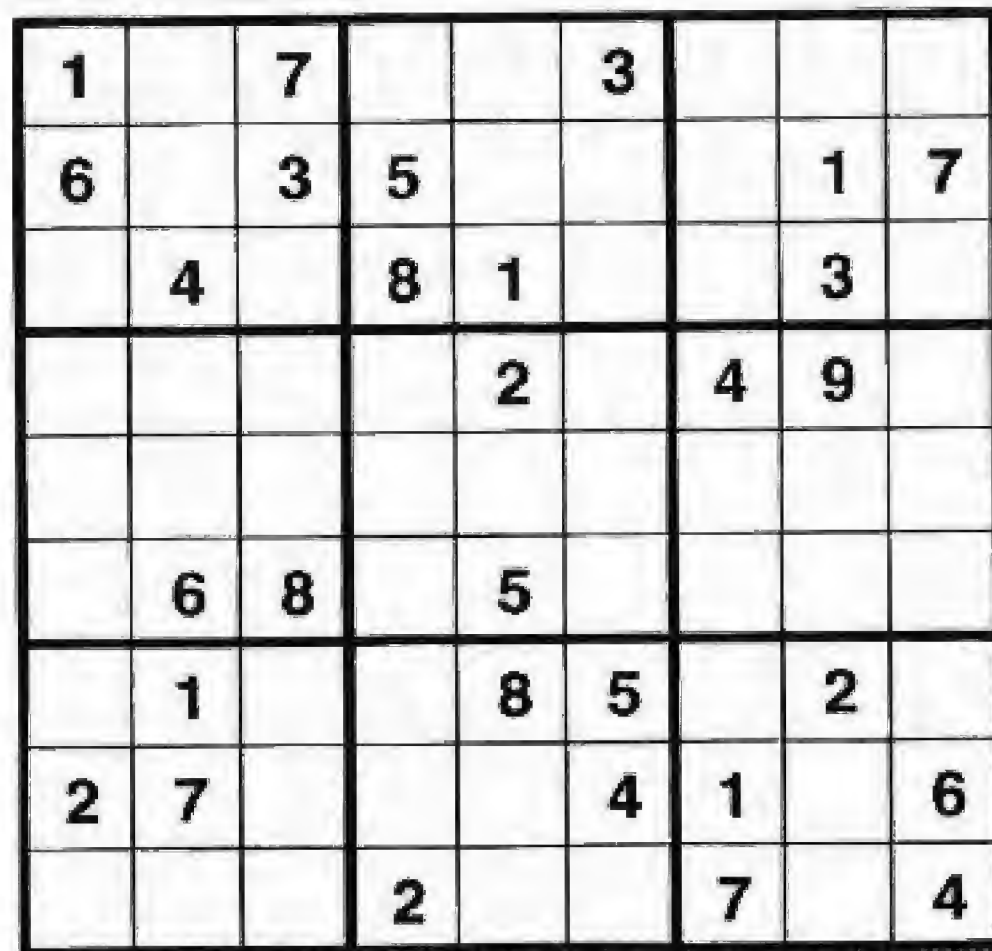
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Sudoku



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba con-

tributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 360 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area also to house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's ac-



Keshi Yena

claimed "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients

that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe preparation of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Aside from an extensive re-

gular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare. So don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. telf. 5860606.

Football: Bayern claim record German league title win



BERLIN (AFP) - Record-breaking Bayern Munich claimed their 24th German league title on Tuesday with a 3-1 win at Hertha Berlin as Pep Guardiola's side secured the title with seven games remaining.

In his debut season, Guardiola has now won three titles in nine months after last August's UEFA Super Cup triumph and December's Club World Cup success.

"I am just happy we have finally managed it," said Guardiola as his side opened up an unassailable 35-point lead over second-placed Borussia Dortmund.

"It didn't matter when we got it just as long as we won the title for this great club."

Bayern's 19th consecutive Bundesliga win secured their 24th title - their 23rd of the Bundesliga era - and the victory at Berlin's Olympic Stadium was never in doubt after they raced into a 2-0 lead with just 15 minutes gone.

Bayern have also taken one game off their own record, set last season, for the earliest confirmed league win and are still on course to finish the season unbeaten.

"It's unbelievable to clinch the title on the back of an unbeaten record," said winger Arjen Robben.

"We're all unbelievably proud of the team and our achievements this season."

Midfielder Toni Kroos slammed home an early

strike before Mario Goetze headed their second to set the Bavarian giants on their way to collecting the three points required to be sure of clinching the championship on the night.

Hertha's Colombia striker Adrian Ramos scored a penalty before France winger Franck Ribery came off the bench to net a superb third.

With seven games left, it is now mathematically certain that Bayern cannot be caught by any of their rivals, although in truth the title race has been over for weeks already.

"Everything has come together for us. We've played phenomenal football this season," said Bayern and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

"We're so happy to have Pep Guardiola here. He's evolved our game even further."

Kroos, whose recent contract extension negotiations have stalled, opened the scoring in the sixth minute when he fired home from a Mueller cross.

Goetze doubled the lead when he headed home from a Bastian Schweinsteiger delivery eight minutes later and Bayern enjoyed a remarkable 83 percent of the possession in the opening half.

It could have been 3-0 at the break as Mueller headed off the crossbar with Hertha's ex-Bayern goalkeeper

Thomas Kraft beaten seven minutes before the interval.

The hosts pulled a goal back when Ramos netted a penalty on 66 minutes after being fouled in the area by Bayern's Brazilian right-back Rafinha.

However, with 11 minutes left, Ribery scored the best goal of the night when he chipped home from a seemingly impossible angle after a storming run by Goetze.

Dortmund held onto second place with a goalless draw at home to third-placed local rivals Schalke 04 with no trouble reported despite security concerns seeing some 3000 police officers deployed for the match.

VfL Wolfsburg moved up to fifth with a 3-1 win at mid-table Werder Bremen as Junior Malanda, Ivan Perisic and Germany Under-21 attacking midfielder Maximilian Arnold, who is still only 19, found the net for the visitors. Centre-back Sebastian Proedl netted a consolation for Bremen.

Bottom side Eintracht Braunschweig breathed some life into their survival fight with a shock 3-1 win at home to seventh-placed Mainz 05 as Congolese-born captain Dominick Kumbela scored twice.

The result keeps things tight at the foot of the table with just four points separating the bottom five teams.

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SAO PAULO (AFP) : PM paramilitary police personnel wearing protective suits help "victims" during a drill to deal with a terrorist attack with chemical weapons as part of the security measures for the upcoming FIFA 2014 World Cup, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Tuesday. Sao Paulo will host the opening match of the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup.



BARCELONA (AFP) - FC Barcelona's president Josep Maria Bartomeu answers to AFP journalists during an interview at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Monday. Bartomeu has insisted that Lionel Messi will become the world's highest paid footballer once negotiations over his new contract are finalised.

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SETAR is ready for FIFA 2014!



SEROE BLANCO – SETAR N.V., as a "Platinum Sponsor" of the FIFA World Cup 2014, anticipates a very exciting worldwide football season. No other sports event can captivate the imagination of people as FIFA World Cup soccer, which catches everyone's attention during for the entire season. FIFA teams are focused on the beautiful, shining golden cup; it is the maximum ambition of all football players to earn it. "We at SETAR are very happy to be able to bring this global sports event to islander' living rooms via TeleAruba, channel 13&23," SETAR Marketing Manager Shahaira Labad expressed enthusiastically. "We will be offering special promotions for clients, especially for this exciting season, not only during, but also before the world cup tournament. According to Ms. Labad, everyone must stay pending and follow the FIFA World Cup 2014 programs via TeleAruba to get to know all the sponsors. *Photo shows Shahaira Labad and SETAR Marketing Executive Andreina Kock and Manuel da Silva, sports announcer for Tele Arubaposing with the FIFA 2014 mascot.*

Grand Master Chaco Cornelio as head referee in Chile Taekwondo

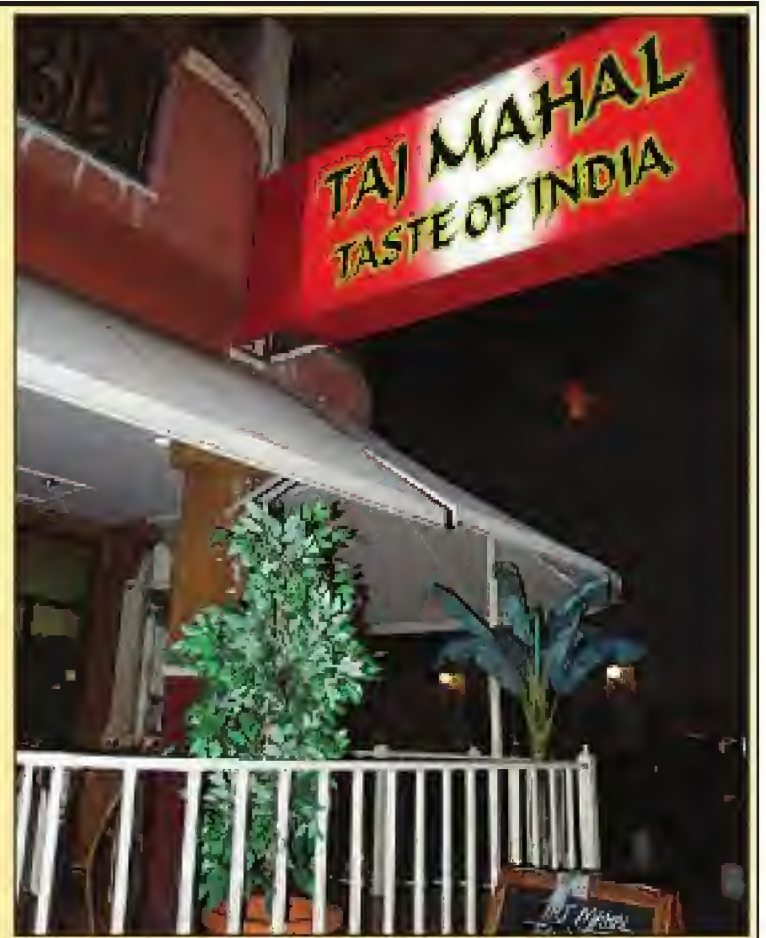


ORANJESTAD - Grandmaster Chaco Cornelio, to serve as head referee during the ODESUR Games in Santiago, Chile. Chaco Cornelio continues to excel in his work as an international referee of Taekwondo. Chaco has been appointed by the president of the Pan American Taekwondo Union, master Ji Ho Choi to be in charge of refereeing during the ODESUR Games in Santiago, Chile. Grandmaster Chaco has served as head referee at the ODESUR Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina as well as for the games in Bolivariana in Pereira, Colombia. We congratulate Chaco on this important venture.

TAJ MAHAL; Taste of INDIA - If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikka, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is



crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary, they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!

Call 588-4494 for reservations.

Taekwondo team preparing for 6th 2014 Taekwondo Cup



ORANJESTAD - The Train Hard Fight Smart team is currently training at the Baby Beach for the 6th Ultimate 2014 Taekwondo Cup.

The trainings at the Baby Beach with Clifford Rasmijn who is leading the team in stretching warm up. This follows by a run around the edge of the beach.

To their pleasant surprise last Saturday TeleAruba arrived on the scene and was able to take some footage of the training. Brazil Taekwondo Foundation's goal is to train their athletes to, indeed, Train Hard and Fight Smart.

On Sunday, March 30th the



Foundation is holding a car wash and BBQ at Centro di Bario Brazil to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Suri-

nam in June. Everyone is invited to come by the Centro di Bario Brazil to give their support for this good cause.

Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!

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Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino Shops & Restaurants. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations. Many of our guests have found that one vacation to Aruba per year is simply not enough! Our solution: The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

You can now purchase your own condominium and still enjoy the Resort amenities of the Divi collection.

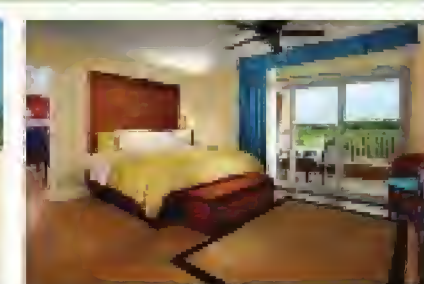
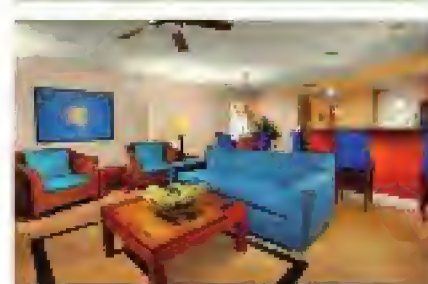
For more information about The Residences, visit our Sales Office located in the Golf Clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort. For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium:

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Charity Golf Tournament organized by AFM Aruba.com takes place this coming Sunday

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ORANJESTAD -- AFM Aruba.com online radio is organizing a Charity Golf Tournament for this Sunday, March 30, at the Divi Links, with proceeds earmarked to provide smart boards for Aruba's secondary schools.

A Smart Board is an interactive whiteboard that uses touch detection for user input, such as scrolling and right mouse-click in the same way as normal PC input devices.

Combining the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer, the SMART Board interactive system allows educators to deliver dynamic lessons, write notes in digital ink and save their input – all with the touch of a finger.

AFM Aruba.com considers the The 1-2-3- interactive board as an ideal tool to promote learning and training.

"Smart Board" is "Software Friendly." It works with several programs, like Geome-

ter Sketchpad, Inspiration and Microsoft PowerPoint. The Educational advantage it provides would engage islands students and spark their interest in lessons. The system comes with a RM Easiteach, popular software which includes toolbars with specific topics that can combine lessons, diagrams and training through interactive methods.

-AFM Aruba.com is convinced that education transforms people's lives and enhances its quality for the community. It can increase motivation among students. The internet radio will also start with a "Face Book Challenge" where each school will receive an opportunity to participate. Friends and family members can also vote and so help their favorite school win a Smart Board. All casting an online vote can also participate in a raffle to win a Tablet.

The school that receives

more votes will receive a Smart Board. The competition starts on Sunday, April 6 at 12 midnight.

For more information please contact Alexander Lejuez at alexander.lejuez@antra-coaruba.com.

